

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1 A. A system for detecting and selectively removing viruses in data
2 transfers, the system comprising:
3 a memory for storing data and routines, the memory having inputs and
4 outputs, the memory including a server for scanning data for a
5 virus and specifying data handling actions dependent on an
6 existence of the virus;
7 a communications unit for receiving and sending data in response to
8 control signals, the communications unit having an input and an
9 output; and
10 a processing unit for receiving signals from the memory and the
11 communications unit and for sending signals to the memory and
12 communications unit; the processing unit having inputs and
13 outputs; the inputs of the processing unit coupled to the outputs of
14 memory and the output of the communications unit; the outputs of
15 the processing unit coupled to the inputs of memory, the input of
16 the communications unit, the processor controlling and processing
17 data transmitted through the communications unit to detect
18 viruses and selectively transfer data depending on the existence of
19 viruses in the data being transmitted.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the server includes:

2 a proxy server for receiving data to be transferred, the proxy server
3 scanning the data to be transferred for viruses and controlling
4 transmission of the data to be transferred according to preset
5 handing instructions and the presence of viruses, the proxy server
6 having a data input, a data output and a control output, the data
7 input coupled to receive the data to be transferred; and
8 a daemon for transferring data from the proxy server in response to
9 control signals from the proxy server, the daemon having a control
10 input, a data input and a data output, the control input of the
11 daemon coupled to the control output of the proxy server for
12 receiving control signals, and the data input of the daemon coupled
13 to the data output of the proxy server for receiving the data to be
14 transferred.

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1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the proxy server is a FTP proxy
2 server that handles evaluation and transfer of data files, and the daemon is an
3 FTP daemon that communicates with a recipient node and transfers data files to
4 the recipient node.

1 4. The system of claim 2, wherein the proxy server is a SMTP proxy
2 server that handles evaluation and transfer of messages, and the daemon is an
3 SMTP daemon that communicates with a recipient node and transfers messages
4 to the recipient node.

1 ~~6.~~ A computer implemented method for detecting viruses in data
2 transfers between a first computer and a second computer, the method
3 comprising the steps of:
4 receiving at a server a data transfer request including a destination
5 address;
6 electronically transmitting data to the server;
7 determining whether the data contains a virus at the server;
8 performing a preset action on the data using the server if the data contains
9 a virus; and
10 sending the data to the destination address if the data does not contain a
11 virus.

1 ~~3~~⁴6. The method of claim ~~6~~⁴, further comprising the steps of storing the
2 data in a temporary file at the server after the step of electronically transmitting;
3 and wherein the step of determining includes scanning the data for a virus
4 using the server.

1 ^{Sub}~~6~~_{A3} 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of scanning is performed
2 using in signature scanning process.

1 ~~7~~⁸. The method of claim ~~5~~⁴, wherein the step of performing a preset
2 action on the data using the server comprises performing one step from the
3 group of:
4 transmitting the data unchanged;
5 not transmitting the data; and
6 storing the data in a file with a new name and notifying a recipient of the
7 data transfer request of the new file name.

1 9. The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
2 determining whether the data is of a type that is likely to contain a virus;
3 and
4 transmitting the data from the server to the destination without
5 performing the steps of scanning, determining, performing and
6 sending, if the data is not of a type that is likely to contain a virus.

1 Sub A4 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of determining whether
2 the data is of a type that is likely to contain a virus is performed by comparing an
3 extension type of a file name for the data to a group of known extension types.

1 ~~9~~⁴~~11~~. The method of claim ~~8~~⁴, further comprising the steps of:
2 determining whether the data is being transferred into a first network by
3 comparing the destination address to valid addresses for the first
4 network;

5 wherein the server is a FTP proxy server;

6 wherein the step of electronically ^{receiving}~~transmitting~~ data comprises the steps of

7 transferring the data from a client node to the FTP proxy server, if

8 the data is not being transferred into the first network; and

9 wherein the step of electronically ^{receiving}~~transmitting~~ data comprises the steps of

10 transferring the data from a server task to an FTP daemon, and then

11 from the FTP daemon to the FTP proxy server if the data is being

12 transferred into the first network.

1 ¹⁰~~12~~. The method of claim ⁴~~5~~, further comprising the steps of:

2 determining whether the data is being transferred into a first network by

3 comparing the destination address to valid addresses for the first

4 network;

5 wherein the server is a FTP proxy server;

6 wherein the step of sending the data to the destination address comprises

7 transferring the data from the FTP proxy server to a node having

8 the destination address, if the data is being transferred into the first

9 network; and

10 wherein the step of sending the data to the destination address comprises

11 transferring the data from the FTP proxy server to a FTP daemon,

12 and then from an FTP daemon to a node having the destination

13 address, if the data is not being transferred into the first network.

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1 ~~13.~~ A computer implemented method for detecting viruses in a mail
2 message transferred between a first computer and a second computer, the
3 method comprising the steps of:

4 receiving a mail message request including a destination address;

5 electronically transmitting the mail message to a server;

6 determining whether the mail message contains a virus;

7 performing a preset action on the mail message if the mail message

8 contains a virus; and

9 sending the mail message to the destination address if the mail message

10 does not contains a virus.

1 14. The method of claim ~~13~~, wherein the step of determining whether
2 the mail message contains a virus is performed by scanning the mail message for
3 encoded portions.

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1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of scanning the mail
2 message for encoded portions searches for uuencoded portions.

1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein:

2 the step of sending the mail message to the destination address is

3 performed if the mail message does not contain any encoded

4 portions;

5 the server includes a SMTP proxy server and a SMTP daemon; and

the step of sending the mail message comprises transferring the mail message from the SMTP proxy server to the SMTP daemon, and transferring the mail message from the SMTP daemon to a node having an address matching the destination address.

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~~17~~. The method of claim ¹¹~~13~~, wherein the step of determining whether the mail message contains a virus, further comprises the steps of:

- storing the message in a temporary file;
- scanning the temporary file for viruses; and
- testing whether the scanning step found a virus.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of determining whether the mail message contains a virus, further comprises the step of:

- determining whether the mail message contains any encoded portions;
- storing each encoded portion of the mail message in a separate temporary file;
- decoding the encoded portions of the mail message to produced decoded portions of the mail message;
- scanning each of the decoded portions for a virus; and
- testing whether the scanning step found any viruses.

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19. The method of claim 18, wherein step of scanning is performed using in signature scanning process.

1 20. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of performing a preset
2 action on the mail message comprises performing one step from the group of:
3 transferring the mail message unchanged;
4 not transferring the mail message; and
5 storing the mail message as file with a new name and notifying a recipient
6 of the mail message request of the new file name; and
7 creating a modified mail message by writing the output of the determining
8 step into the modified mail message and transferring the mail
9 message to the destination address.

1 21. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of performing a preset
2 action on the mail message comprises performing one step from the group of:
3 transferring the mail message unchanged;
4 transferring the mail message with the encoded portions having a virus
5 deleted; and
6 renaming the encode portions of the mail message containing a virus, and
7 storing the renamed portions as files in a specified directory on the
8 server and notifying a recipient of the renamed files and directory;
9 and
10 writing the output of the determining step into the mail message in place
11 of respective encoded portions that contain a virus to create a
12 modified mail message and sending the modified mail message.

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21. An apparatus for detecting viruses in data transfers between a first
computer and a second computer, the apparatus comprising:
means for receiving a data transfer request including a destination address;
B 4 means for electronically ^{receiving} ~~transmitting~~ data ^{at} ~~to~~ a server;
5 means for determining whether the data contains a virus at the server;
6 means for performing a preset action on the data using the server if the
7 data contains a virus; and
8 means for sending the data to the destination address if the data does not
9 contain a virus.

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AB 23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein means for determining includes
2 a means for scanning that scans the data using in a signature scanning process.

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24. 18
24. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the means for performing a
2 preset action comprises:
3 means for transmitting the data unchanged;
4 means for not transmitting the data; and
5 means for storing the data in a file with a new name and notifying a
6 recipient of the data transfer request of the new file name.

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25. 18
25. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising:

2 a second means for determining whether the data is of a type that is likely
3 to contain a virus; and
4 means for transmitting the data from the server to the destination
5 without performing the steps of scanning, determining, performing
6 and sending, if the data is not of a type that is likely to contain a
7 virus.

1 ²²_{26.} The apparatus of claim ¹⁸~~22~~, further comprising means for
2 determining whether the data is being transferred into a first network by
3 comparing the destination address to valid addresses for the first network.